

The Chronicle and Index

OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY.

No. 30, Vol. iii.]

BELFAST, JUNE 1st, 1883,

[For Gratuitous Circulation

THE Rev. J. C. Street has the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of 2/6 from Staffordshire ; 2/6 from the Rev. D. Maginiss, of Stourbridge ; 3/- from J. Bennett, Belfast ; and 5/- from G. Ritchie, Esq., London ; in aid of the publication and gratuitous circulation of the *Chronicle and Index*. Mr. Street will be glad to receive other contributions.

WE give a pretty full report of the proceedings at our Anniversary Meetings, which we think will prove interesting to our friends.

MR. STREET has concluded his Sunday Evening Lectures for the present season. His last subject was, "the Stars and the Bible," and the attendance was as usual, both large and encouraging.

It is very satisfactory to note, how winter after winter, the people are attracted in considerable numbers, every Sunday Evening, to listen to Mr. Street's expositions of great religious and social topics. Such a bold statement of our great principles cannot help but produce a salutary effect throughout the community.

THE Annual Meetings of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, and the Sunday School Association, have just been held in London, and they have been both satisfactory, in recording good work that has been done, and in the new plans of usefulness laid out for the future. We congratulate both bodies on the great success of their meetings. The Rev. J. C. Street and R. M'Calmont, Esq., were present at the Sunday School Breakfast, as representatives of the Belfast Society.

THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

SERMONS were preached on Sunday, May 6th, in the Second Congregation, Belfast, and at Moneyrea, by the Rev. F. W. Walters, and at Carrickfergus, by Rev. J. C. Street, in aid of the funds of the Association. The attendance was good, the collections were generous, and the services were greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL BREAKFAST.

On Monday morning the usual breakfast in connection with the Unitarian Anniversary Meetings was given in the Castle Restaurant, Castle Arcade. There

was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. Mr. James M. Darbishire presided.

Amongst the others present were — Dr. W. B. Ritchie, J.P. ; Thomas M'Clelland, J.P. ; Rev. Frank Walters (Glasgow), Rev. J. C. Street, Rev. Harold Rylett, Rev. J. J. Wright, Messrs. H. Darbishire, H. Hyndman, LL.D. ; R. M'Calmont, F.R.S. ; J. R. Neill, W. J. Roche, T. Johnson (Chester), D. W. Moore, J. Ritchie, N. Bodel (Moneyrea), William Bennett (Moneyrea), W. A. Adamson (Carrickfergus), James Campbell, W. M'Calmont, G. Fisher, J. Burden, Daniel Bulmer, &c., besides a large number of ladies.

Rev. J. C. STREET having asked a blessing, an excellent breakfast was partaken of.

Rev. J. J. WRIGHT returned thanks.

Rev. Mr. STREET (secretary) then read a number of letters of apology from kindred associations in England and Scotland for the non-attendance of representatives.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had to thank them for asking him to preside at the Annual Meeting of their Association. He remembered that a similar honour was conferred on him thirteen years ago, when their friend, Mr. Street, first appeared in Belfast, and preached the annual sermons in connection with their Unitarian Society and Sunday-school Association. A departure from the usual custom of welcoming friends was made on that occasion. They had a very pleasant meeting, and he recollected a very large attendance, although he did not think it was larger than that on the present occasion. Two years ago they thought they would follow the practice of thirteen years ago, and it was decided that the Annual Meeting should be organised by a breakfast similar to that which they were now enjoying. It was also carried out last year, and everything was most successful, harmonious, and agreeable. (Hear, hear.) To-day they were assembled to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Unitarian Society, with which was incorporated the Sunday-school Association. He was not going to anticipate the report that would be presented in the evening regarding the working of the Unitarian Society, but he would content himself with merely saying that it had done great work, a greater work than it had ever done before, and that, so far as their Sunday-school Association was concerned, it also was doing a great work amongst the young people. He always regarded the Sunday-school as the mother of the Church. They had amongst them a number of influential, large-hearted ladies and gentlemen who seemed to have put their whole hearts into the working of that Association, and that meeting testified to the interest that they had always felt, and which he trusted they always would feel in the welfare of their Sunday-school Association. They owed a very deep debt of gratitude, especially to the ladies, who had done so much in assisting them in their Sunday-school work, because, so far as his experience was concerned,

they were most willing and most attentive in their duties, and, as a consequence, the children were deeply attached to them, hence the success of their Sunday-schools. It was to be regretted that, owing to reasons which had been read to them by their joint secretary, they were not to be favoured with the presence of some of those who, on other occasions, graced their board. They had the hearty good wishes of those Associations, and if unfortunately the anniversaries of both associations happened about the same time neither was to blame. However, it would be a satisfaction to their English and Scotch friends to know that their meeting that morning had been a grand success, and that they were met together in the same bond of love and union as before. (Hear, hear.) They must hope that next year, if they were all spared, they would meet together in a similar spirit, and that they would have some of their brethren from across the Channel with them to assist in the good work here. True, they had a sturdy and tried friend amongst them from Glasgow, who, three months ago, delivered two most admirable and instructive lectures to the Mutual Improvement Association, to him they would give a hearty welcome. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by again thanking those present for their kindness to him on that occasion.

Rev. J. C. STREET moved the following resolution :—
 "That we extend to all Associations seeking to promote pure and undefiled religion, and the welfare of the young, a cordial sympathy and good-will, and wish them every success in their noble work for God and man." He well remembered the occasion of his visiting Belfast thirteen years ago. At that time there was a sort of union amongst all the so-called Unitarian churches in this part of the kingdom, and he preached in the houses of the Rev. John Scott Porter, the Rev. John Porter, and the Rev. John Jellie. It was no longer practicable—at least for some time to come—to have a concurrence of all their churches in celebrating any anniversary, and yet he did not think he should be wrong in saying that the thirteen years that had elapsed had been years of singular progress. The society under whose auspices they met that day was the same society that was now celebrating its fifty-second anniversary. They were the inheritors of the traditions of the elders; they had entered into the work of those who preceded them, and were carrying on in pure faithfulness the very principles with which they began their work. (Hear, hear.) It was quite true that they were a progressive body, and that they had adapted their teachings to-day to the necessities of the hour and to the fitness of things. Though they did not use precisely the same phraseology that their friends did fifty years ago, or even twenty years ago, yet they rooted themselves on precisely the same principles. They clung to the principles of civil and religious liberty, the recognition of the one living and true God, and the great Brother of their humanity, the great Helper and Teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, and the great hope that told them of the glories that were to attend the progress of humanity and the development of all grand principles. (Applause.) Unfortunately a number of their friends thought it necessary to leave them. He would not say

what influenced either party in the conflict that took place, or what led to the separation between two sections of the Unitarian body. Suffice it to say, that those who were present that morning, and who were twelve years ago active members of the Unitarian Society, had never altered one principle. (Hear, hear.) They had retained the same openness that was bequeathed to them; they had never closed their doors against anybody; they would be just as glad to-day as ever to welcome all the Unitarians of the North of Ireland into their society; they were animated by the same fellowship and brotherly love as in the days that were gone by. In no sense whatever had they altered the relationships which they bore to the progressive principles of the Unitarian Society. Their friends, lay and clerical, in the North of Ireland might know that though they were resolute never to be an exclusive body, never to be an unprogressive body, yet they were ready that day, as they had always been ready in the past, to welcome them into fellowship, and to associate with them in all progressive work. (Applause.) In extending cordial sympathy to all the associations who were in sympathy with their movements, he would associate with the resolution the name of the Rev. Frank W. Walters, of Glasgow. (Applause.)

Mr. HERBERT DARBISHIRE seconded the motion, which was supported by Dr. HYNDMAN, and passed.

Rev. FRANK WALTERS, as representative of the Scotch Unitarian Society, thanked those present very heartily for the manner in which they had received the resolution to which it was his duty to respond. He always felt quite at home in Belfast, almost as much at home as in Glasgow. When in Belfast three months ago he did not think he would have been back so soon. He had to fill the place of his friend, Mr. Drummond, of Edinburgh. He had already preached three sermons, and he found he was to make two speeches. However, he was willing to respond as often as he was called upon. (Hear, hear.) The Association in Scotland was about to establish what they were going to call a lectureship. It would be undertaken by what the Americans would call a minister at large, a clergyman who would preach or lecture in populous centres and establish Congregations if possible. Whether this was done or not they would rejoice all the same, as secret results were often more important than open results. They would have the satisfaction of furthering that religion which had been expounded by Mr. Street, the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and the immortal hope of all mankind. In his orthodox days he heard a great deal about the distinction between the visible and invisible Church. He thought there was a real and valuable distinction. Why, if they judged of Unitarianism and the progress of rational religious thought in Scotland by the visible Church—by counting the members of their Churches—they would have Unitarianism in a very bad way in their Northern land; and yet he was going to say that he did not know any part of the kingdom where Unitarianism was making more headway, and where there was a greater prospect for Unitarianism than in Calvinistic Scotland. (Hear, hear.) He was as hopeful for broad religious thought in Scotland as in any

part of the land. He had been speaking on the previous evening about evolution. People required to be cautious in talking on that subject. Some people had the idea that it was a sort of physicial or metaphysical entity that was going to do the work without men or women helping in that work. There was no evolution without evolving men and women. There was no humanity apart from the men and women that constituted humanity, and if triumph was going to be brought about it would have to be brought about by people like them. They would have to realise that splendid utterance of Martin Luther—"God needs good men just as much as good men need God." (Applause.)

Mr. J. R. NEILL delivered a short address on Sunday-school work. He said the Sunday-school was composed almost entirely of the children of members of the congregation, and while the parents might keep these children quiet while in church, it was impossible for anyone with observation to say that the children were really interested in the services. Occasionally they might be, but a minister could not adopt his regular preaching to the minds of those who were very young. A special service, perhaps once a month, might to some extent meet the difficulty, but he considered it perfectly utopian to suppose that they would get children much interested in ordinary discourses and prayers. They might, of course, be able to keep children in regular attendance for a certain time, but little good would result from that.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE spoke a few words on the same subject.

Rev. J. J. WRIGHT thought the Church did not lose the children that attended the Sunday-schools, and that the reason many left School at all was because they were advancing in years. He believed the Sunday-school was to the Church what childhood was to manhood.

Mr. M'CALMONT hoped the matter under discussion would be taken up by the Executive of the Sunday-school Society. (Hear, hear.) As their time was drawing to a close, he begged to move that Mr. Darbshire leave the chair, and that it be taken by Mr. Thomas M'Clelland.

Mr. M'Clelland having taken the second chair,

On the motion of Mr. M'CALMONT, seconded by Mr. D. BULMEA, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Darbshire, and

The proceedings concluded.

EVENING MEETING.

At seven o'clock the Fifty-second Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Lecture Hall, Rosemary Street. There was a large attendance. Amongst those present were:—Mr. Thomas M'Clelland, J.P. (in the chair); Rev. J. C. Street, Rev. F. W. Walters, Rev. J. J. Wright, Rev. J. Cooper, Rev. H. M'Gowan, Mr. John Ritchie, Mr. James M. Darbshire, Mr. Herbert Darbshire, Mr. J. R. Neill, Mr. Hugh Hyndman, Mr. Daniel Bulmer, Mr. George Fisher, Mr. Robert M'Calmont, Dr. Polly, Messrs. J. Logan (Carriekfergus), J. M'Giffin, J. F. Mulligan, W. R. Stitt, R. W. Dale, J. Greenfield, J. M'Williams,

T. E. Osborne, N. C. Dobbin, C. Robb, W. Moore, R. J. Stitt, J. W. Kinnear, F. C. Wright, J. M. Smith, J. Worthington, and Angus Chism.

The meeting having been opened with prayer,

The CHAIRMAN said he had much pleasure in taking the chair on that occasion. Fifty-two years was a considerable period. For some time the Society had been, no doubt, separated from friends that were formerly acting in concert with them to a certain extent. There had been meetings of these, and by reports in the papers they had seen what was said in those meetings of that Society. He did not intend to take any notice whatever of the observations that were made, because the state of the Society whose meeting was now being held, and the progress they had made, placed them in a position from which they could afford to disregard what anyone said about them. The present Society had gone on steadily from year to year increasing and improving, and financially they were in a capital position. He believed there had been more money received by that Society this year than during any previous period. He therefore felt that he might congratulate the Society on their financial position. The Report which would be read would speak more correctly upon the matters to which he had been alluding, and therefore he would not detain them, but call on one of the Secretaries, Mr. Darbshire, to read the Report.

Mr. J. M. DARBISHIRE read the Report, which was as follows:—

"In presenting the Fifty-second Annual Report of the Unitarian Society, with which is now blended the Northern S. S. Association, the Committee are happy to state that the work of the year has been successful,

"At the first meeting of the General Committee, held on May 3rd, Dr. E. Gardner was elected President for the year, but your Committee deeply regret to state that his health has entirely unfitted him for discharging the duties of the office. They had counted so surely upon his wise aid and council, and upon his zealous leadership in their work, that their disappointment and sorrow have been exceedingly great. They wish it was possible to report that he was restored to health.

"There have been 13 meetings of the Committee during the year, and the attendance thereat has been as follows:—

W. A. Adamson, 2	T. M'Clelland, 13,
W. C. Dobbin, 6,	George Fisher, 9,
Rev. J. A. Kelly, 3,	Dr. M'Caw, 5,
Rev. J. J. Wright, 8,	R. M'Calmont, 8,
D. M'Master, 0,	J. F. Mulligan, 4,
J. R. Neill, 6,	Rev. H. Rylett, 2,
Dr. Polly, 7,	J. M. Smith, 5,

J. Bennett, 2,

H. Hyndman, *Treasurer*, 9.

J. M. Darbshire,	{ Secretaries, 9.
Rev. J. C. Street,	

"The Treasurer's Receipts for the year amounted to £459 1s. 1½d., and his payments to £455 10s. 10d.

"The details will be found in his Financial Report.

"The Sales at the Depository during the year still show an increase, and amounted to the sum of £302 11 0½, being £23 18 1½ in excess of the previous year. The number of books sold during the year was 3,187, and the sale and gratuitous distribution of tracts was larger than ever."

"The Committee are glad to be able to record their continued high appreciation of the services of Miss Dickson, as their agent. Her devotion to the interests of the Society is untiring.

"Your Committee were represented at the autumn

nal meeting of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, at Glasgow, and the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Unitarian Association, by Rev. J. J. Wright; and the Manchester District Sunday School Association, by Mr. R. M'Calmont; and their representatives were cordially received.

"There have been four Committee Meetings on Sunday School matters during the year, and a Conference was held, on December 6th, in Rosemary Street, Belfast, when a paper was read by Rev. C. J. Street, M.A., of Padiham, on "The work of Sunday Schools to-day." A very interesting and profitable discussion followed the reading of the Paper, which was subsequently published in extenso in the *Chronicle and Index*.

"The Annual Floral Service was held in the Church of the Second Congregation, Rosemary Street, on June 25th, and was, as usual, in every respect, a gratifying success.

"The *Chronicle and Index* has been published regularly every month, and has proved, not only very acceptable to its large circle of readers, but of great use in promoting the interests of Free Religion.

"The Committee Room of the Association in Queen's Arcade has been neatly and comfortably furnished, and is now regularly supplied with books and periodicals. Friends from town and country may now meet there, and enjoy the perusal of the current Unitarian literature.

"The Book Club has been established, with Rev. J. J. Wright as its Secretary, and is proving useful in bringing before a select body of readers some of the most notable books of the day, bearing on the greatest religious problems.

"Your Committee have had great pleasure in promoting the circulation of a number of new books and tracts during the year, and they would especially note the following:—

" 'Recollections of Twenty Sunday Afternoon Addresses.' By John Page Hope.

'What do I Live for?' By James C. Street.

'Natural Religion.' By Professor Seeley.

'A Small Book of Great Thoughts.' By Peter Dean.

'Ralph Waldo Emerson.' By Alex. Ireland.

'Remarkable Women.' By Ann Swaine.

'Spinoza.' By Dr. Martineau.

'Religion of Evolution.' By M. J. Savage.

'Laws of Life, &c.' By J. H. Thom.

'My Creed.' By G. T. Walters.

'Modern Sermons.' By Stopford Brooke, F. W. Walters, R. A. Armstrong, &c.

"The Depository has proved exceedingly useful during the year, and is resorted to, not only by Unitarians, but by an increasing number of the general public.

"Your Committee have never lost sight of the great inclusive principle on which they are bound to carry on the work of the Society. Knowing that they represent the members of a denomination that proudly boasts of freedom and comprehension, and that can only live in an atmosphere of free inquiry, and generous hospitality to all truths that God may reveal, they have given the amplest facilities, through the agency of the Depository, to any of their members or the general public to obtain, on the lowest possible terms, all the great books and tracts, issued from the Press, and they have confidence that this great principle of inclusiveness can only result in good to the community.

"In laying down the trust confided to them, they confidently state that they have done their best to promote, through the Society, the interests of spiritual religion and true freedom."

Mr. HYNDMAN read the following treasurer's statement:—

Dr. The Treasurer in Account with the Unitarian Society, for the Year ending 31st December, 1882. **Cr**

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1881, ...	67	5	7½
„ Congregational Collections:—			
Belfast Second Congregation, Rosemary St.	£35	14	0
Carrickfergus	1	0	0
Killinchy	1	10	0
Moneyrea	6	1	0
Mountpottinger (1881)	0	15	5
	45	0	5

SUBSCRIPTIONS.	£	s.	d.
„ Belfast & Mountpottinger, £44	1	6	
„ Ballee, ...	0	7	6
„ Ballyclare & Ballynure, ...	0	5	0
„ Carrickfergus, ...	0	15	0
„ Comber, ...	1	2	6
„ Downpatrick, ...	0	5	0
„ Dromore, ...	0	8	0
„ Dundalk, ...	0	5	0
„ Dunmurry, ...	0	10	0
„ Glenarm, ...	0	2	6
„ Holywood (5/- of '81), ...	0	17	6
„ Larne, ...	0	5	0
„ Moneyrea, ...	3	5	0
„ Rademon, ...	0	17	0
„ Various, ...	0	10	0
	53	16	6

„ Donations for <i>Chronicle and Index</i> , ...	2	9	0
„ Receipts at Depository, ...	302	11	0½
„ Rents, ...	49	9	2
„ Fixtures in Donegall Street, ...	1	10	0
„ Sunday-school Conference, ...	4	5	0
	£526	6	9

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Incidental Expenses,			
Agent for Sundries, £22	2	2½	
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery, ...	4	12	5
	26	14	7½
„ Agency Expenses—Salary, ...	30	0	0
„ Annual Sermons:—			
Preacher, Advertising, and Printing, ...	7	14	6
„ S.S. Conferences:—			
Breakfast, Deputation, etc., ...	8	3	6
„ Floral Service (1881), Printing, ...	1	6	0
„ Rents and Taxes:—			
Captain Barrett	£61	16	8
Mr. Fisher, ...	15	15	0
Taxes, ...	6	9	4½
Agreement Stamp	0	5	0
	84	6	0½
„ Shop Fittings, Painting and Repairs, ...	31	3	2
„ Books and Stationery, ...	240	3	0
„ <i>Chronicle and Index</i> Printing, ...	26	0	0
„ Balance, ...	70	15	11

£526 6 9

Mr. BULMER moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. J. RITCHIE seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Mr. J. M. DARBISHIRE moved—"That our hearty thanks be given to the Rev. F. W. Walters for his services on this Anniversary, and especially for the sermons at Rosemary Street, Belfast, and at Moneyrea."

Mr. FISHER seconded the motion. They were all delighted to welcome Mr. Walters among them—(hear, hear)—and regretted that his stay would be so brief. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HYNDMAN had great pleasure in supporting the resolution. The sermon preached by Mr. Walters on the previous morning was one which all who heard it ought to lay zealously to heart, and ponder over deliberately.

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the resolution, was sorry for anyone who did not hear both sermons; such discourses he (Mr. McClelland) never heard.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Rev. Mr. WALTERS, in acknowledging the compliment, was not prepared for such overwhelming appreciation. Any poor service he could render he would do so most gladly. It was a joy to him to mingle with them and see their bright and happy faces. He went on to say that he believed there were no two religious societies in such thorough harmony and sympathy with each other as the Belfast Unitarian Society and the Scottish Unitarian Society. (Hear, hear.) He confessed that, judged by outward appearances, Unitarianism in Scotland was a most insignificant affair. There were not more than five Unitarian churches with separate ministers in Scotland, and of these only two—one in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow—were self-supporting. But it would be a great mistake to estimate the extent of Unitarianism in Scotland, by its few apparently feeble congregations. If they were to ask him where was Unitarianism in Scotland, he should reply that it was all over it, saturating the whole of the intellectual and religious atmosphere of that once thoroughly orthodox and Calvinistic land. There was not a single Calvinistic Church in Scotland that was not being—sometimes perhaps unconsciously to itself—influenced and honey-combed by the higher thought that was descending into the world as the result, he believed, of a great Providential movement and influx of a higher spirit from God. When traditionalists had got no more to say, they began to persecute and excommunicate and anathematise, and the cases of Professor Smith and Rev. Dr. McCrea illustrated that statement. If they desired to really understand the progress of Unitarianism in Scotland, they must know Scotland thoroughly, and then they should see how the atmosphere was saturated with rationalistic thought. (Applause.)

THE AFFIRMATION BILL—LETTER FROM MR. GLADSTONE.

Rev. J. C. STREET said that at the General Committee Meeting, held a few days ago, it was agreed to petition Parliament in favour of the Affirmation Bill. The Chairman of that meeting, who was now in the Chair, was requested to forward the petition to Mr. Gladstone—(hear, hear)—and what reply he received would now be made known.

The CHAIRMAN said that when forwarding the petition he undertook, as President of the Society, to address a letter to Mr. Gladstone, stating, on behalf of the Society, that he heartily concurred in the prayer of the petition—(applause)—and that the Society thanked him cordially for his powerful speech in support of the Bill. (Hear, hear.) He received a reply, signed "E. W. Hamilton," the private secretary of Mr. Gladstone. The letter was dated 3rd May, and was in the following words:—"Sir,—Mr. Gladstone has had the honour of receiving the communication which, as President of the Unitarian Society in Belfast, you have been good

enough to address to him; and he desires me to inform you that he will not fail to present the petition which you have forwarded in favour of the Affirmation Bill. Its arrival has given him pleasure." (Applause.)

Rev. J. C. STREET moved the following resolution—"That we renew our expression of allegiance to the great principle of religious liberty, on which this Society is founded, and we rejoice at any effort made on its behalf throughout the world." He was proud to belong to a Society that had for fifty-two years maintained its allegiance to the great principle of religious liberty. For the first time for a long period of years there had been a trial before one of Her Majesty's courts on a charge of blasphemy. Three men—editors and printers—were tried before Mr. Justice North on that charge, based on some very old statutes, and were sent to prison. The judge seemed to be out of date, to be antediluvian in his tendencies and in passing sympathy with modern bigotry, and in his interpretation of the law he forgot the current of human history, the growth of sentiment, the tendency of modern law, and the whole sweep of character and civilisation. (Applause.) In a most magnificent manner Mr. Justice North has been indirectly rebuked by the Lord Chief Justice and by the House of Lords in its legal capacity. Mr. Justice North ventured upon some definitions of blasphemy which were almost as blasphemous as some of the prayers that were offered in some of the Belfast pulpits last Sunday, where as he had seen the Almighty was thanked, not by a vote—(laughter)—but by an expression of the congregation, through its minister, for a vote that took place in the House of Commons last week. (Laughter.) No doubt the gentlemen who prayed thought they were very much indebted to the Almighty for having allowed 292 persons to vote against 289 on the subject of Mr. Gladstone's Affirmation Bill. (Laughter.) The Affirmation Bill was defended before the House of Commons in one of the most magnificent speeches that Mr. Gladstone in all his oratorical career ever delivered. (Applause.) There were in the House of Commons a small band of gentlemen called English Whigs, who, on every crucial question for the last three years, deserted their colours, and of course they did so when the Affirmation Bill was before the House. There was another group of men who were called Liberals who had been tolerably true to the Liberal party, under the control of Mr. Gladstone, for the time being. He referred to the cluster of men that in the main had been faithful Liberals, known as the Ulster Liberals, who professed to be the true exponents of real Liberalism in this country. (A Voice—They are not.) Quite right; they were not, but they claimed to be, and they had attitudinised more than once before Mr. Gladstone and the members of her Majesty's Government, saying that they had special claims for consideration, because they were *par excellence* the representatives of Liberalism in this country. There came a time when it became a question of allegiance to the Government of this day—a Government that had done more for Ireland than any Government in the history of the last hundred years—and the Ulster Liberals to a man, in a cowardly way, turned aside from the House of Commons, and had not the courage to vote either one way or the other. (Hear, hear.) In a critical moment they allowed the greatest statesman of modern times to be defeated in the House of Commons, where he should have been triumphant by a majority of a hundred. (Applause.) He was proud to belong to a Society that dared to stand alone in the face of Ulster Liberals and the Home Rule Catholics, who dare not stand up for the principle by which alone they themselves were permitted to live. (Applause.)

Rev. Mr. WRIGHT seconded the motion. He thought the charge of blasphemy should have been one of "indecentcy."

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. R. M'CALMONT moved a resolution extending respectful sympathy to all engaged in Sunday-school teaching.

Rev. Mr. COOPER seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

Mr. J. R. Neill was called to the second chair.

Mr. H. DARBISHIRE moved a resolution of thanks to the Chairman.

Mr. LOGAN seconded the motion. He observed that the Affirmation Bill was of much more importance than the Healy clause, and he was sorry that those who were called Ulster Liberals did not give the measure their support. It was not long since no Presbyterian could have entered the House of Commons or filled any municipal office, from that of mayor down to bellman, without declaring adhesion to an obnoxious faith. He was glad to second the vote of thanks to his friend, Mr. McClelland, a true Liberal. (Applause.)

The resolution was passed.

Mr. McCLELLAND having acknowledged the vote of thanks,

The proceedings concluded.

The following Committee and Officers, for ensuing year, were declared to be elected :—

COMMITTEE.

W. A. Adamson,	Dr. John McCaw,
John Bennett,	R. McCalmont,
W. C. Dobbin,	J. F. Mulligan,
Rev. T. Dunkerley,	Rev. H. Rylett,
Geo. Fisher,	Dr. John Polly,
Rev. J. A. Kelly,	J. M. Smith,
T. McClelland, J.P.,	Rev. F. Thomas,
Rev. J. J. Wright.	

TREASURER.

Hugh Hyndman, LL.D.

SECRETARIES.

Rev. J. C. Street, J. M. Darbshire,

AUDITORS.

D. W. Moore, John M. Dobbin.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the General Committee of the Society took place in the Committee Room of the Depository, on Tuesday, May 8th, at 3 p.m.

On the motion of Rev. J. C. Street, T. McClelland, Esq., J.P., was called to the Chair.

After the routine business of the meeting was transacted, the Rev. J. C. Street moved, and J. M. Darbshire seconded the following resolution, which was cordially and unanimously adopted :—

“That Dr. W. B. Ritchie, J.P., be the President of the Society for the ensuing year.”

The following gentlemen were then appointed Vice-Presidents :—

W. Bennett, Solitude, Moneyrea.
 Henry Burden, M.D., Belfast.
 Sir E. P. Cowan, D.L., Belfast.
 J. M. Darbshire, Belfast.
 Herbert Darbshire, Belfast.
 R. Hunter, M.D., Larne.
 D. McMaster, Ballymaleddy.
 W. B. Miniss, Dromore.
 W. G. Mulligan, Belfast.
 T. McClelland, J.P., Belfast.
 John R. Neill, Belfast.
 Rev. S. C. Nelson, Downpatrick.
 Rev. John Porter, Ballee.
 W. Robertson, J.P., Belfast.
 Rev. J. C. Street, Belfast.

The Sunday-school Committee for the year was next appointed as follows :—

Miss J. E. Bruce,	Miss Ritchie,
„ Coleman,	Rev. J. A. Kelly,
„ Darbshire,	„ H. Rylett,
„ Dobbin,	„ J. J. Wright,
„ M. Fisher,	„ J. C. Street,
„ Hyndman,	„ Jas. M. Darbshire.
„ May,	„ Thos. Dunkerley,

It was decided that the Sub-Committee of the Society be appointed by the Executive.

The Rev. J. C. Street called attention to the fact that the Committee Room had been properly furnished, and was well supplied with Unitarian papers and periodicals for the use of subscribers and friends, and, that the Book Society had been established and was doing a great and useful work, and that there had been a good circulation of tracts and leaflets during the year.

Dr. Hyndman offered various suggestions for consideration—the earlier collection of the annual subscriptions—and the desirability of altering the time and mode of celebrating the Anniversary of the Society.

Mr. FISHER suggests that the Executive should try to make the Book Society more generally useful; and it was decided to lay the matter before that body.

Various members dwelt with satisfaction upon the recent Anniversaries which had proved so happy and so successful; and the Treasurer stated that the collection in Second Rosemary Street amounted to upwards of £39; in Moneyrea, to upwards of £5; in Carrickfergus, to £2 15s; and that he had received from Killinchy the sum of £1 10s. These facts, taken in connection with the other facts, that all the proceedings connected with the Anniversary had been earnest, united, and hopeful, gave a pleasant tone to the proceedings of the General Committee.

The Treasurer has received the following Subscriptions for 1882 :—

BALLEE.

	£	s.	d.
John Chambers,	...	0	2 6
Hugh Crymble,	...	0	2 6
Rev. John Porter,	...	0	2 6

BELFAST.

Miss. E. J. Bruce,	...	0	10 0
N. A. Campbell,	...	0	2 6
Daniel Curell,	...	0	10 0
R. G. Dunville, D.L.,	...	0	10 0
Mrs. Frew,	...	0	2 6
William Gibson,	...	0	13 0
E. J. Harland, J.P.,	...	1	1 0
Albert C. Hill,	...	0	2 6
Dr. Hodges,	...	0	4 0
Mrs. Hyndman,	...	0	10 0
Hugh Hyndman,	...	0	10 0
Mrs. Hugh Hyndman,	...	0	10 0
Alexander King,	...	0	5 0
Miss Lowry,	...	0	2 6
J. Frazer Lowry,	...	0	2 6
Miss Miniss,	...	0	2 6
John Montgomery,	...	0	2 6
D. W. Moore,	...	0	8 0
W. J. Pirrie,	...	0	10 6
Samuel Riddell,	...	0	3 0
Miss Rowan,	...	0	5 0
John Ward,	...	0	5 0
G. W. Wolff,	...	1	1 0

COMBER.

J. O. Abernethy,	...	0	2 6
Thomas Andrews,	...	0	5 0
Rev. Thomas Dunkerley,	...	0	5 0
Dr. Frame,	...	0	2 6
Thomas Henderson,	...	0	2 6
James Milling,	...	0	2 6
John Simonton,	...	0	2 6

DOWNPATRICK.

John Bell,	...	0	2 6
Joseph Perry,	...	0	2 6

RADEMON.

William Davidson,	...	0	10 0
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VARIOUS.

George Ritchie, London,	...	0	10 0
Same (for 1883),	...	0	10 0

Spring and Summer, 1883.

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Covert Coatings.
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Fancy Trouserings.
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Doeskins and Cassimers.

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